

John Brainard School  
Mt. Holly, Burlington County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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John Brainard School  
Mt. Holly, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: Female Benevolent Association, Mt. Holly

Date of Erection: About 1760

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - red brick  
now painted mud color

Interior walls - plaster,  
arched ceiling

Inside chimney

Solid wood shutters; white  
pine frame

Roof - tin

Historical Data:

The records clearly indicate that this school house was not built by John Brainard, the celebrated Presbyterian missionary to the West Jersey Indians. However, it is known locally as the first Brainard School House. Brainard may have taught there, and if so, the name has a logical foundation. The school house was

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erected by an association organized in 1759 for the purpose of establishing a school in Mt. Holly. The citizens entered into an agreement "to raise a stock fund for purposes of the education of youth". This fund was divided into twenty-five shares, which were taken by the citizens.

The brick school house erected was 24 feet 3 inches long, 20 feet 3 inches broad, and 8 feet high to the eaves. It contained one room with an arch ceiling 10 feet high in the center; these measurements from the old records correspond closely with the present measurements.

The property passed in 1814 to the Female Benevolent Association who still own it.

It was stated above that John Brainard may have taught in this school. According to Heston, a church, parsonage, and school house was built on Brainard Street in 1767. The British used the church and school of Brainard as stables for their horses. Heston (page 625) says that the school house was destroyed by the British. If this statement is correct, there is a possibility that Brainard had nothing to do with the school to which his name has been given.

#### Bibliography:

Heston, A.M. South Jersey History,  
1664-1924 2 Volumes New York and  
Chicago, Lewis Historical Publishing  
Company, 1924

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Burlington County Court Records  
examined by Herbert N. Moffett

*Walter C. Ruck*  
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